

Congress of the United States
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The Honorable Tina Kotek
Governor of Oregon
900 Court Street, Suite 254
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August 30, 2023

Dear Governor Kotek,

I write you today regarding the painful reality of Measure 110 and the consequences Oregonians are now facing due to its failure. Three years ago, our constituents voted for a measure they were told would reduce drug abuse. Instead, drug abuse has exploded and our neighbors fighting addiction have been left to fend for themselves, the very people Oregonians voted to help have been abandoned by the state's unsuccessful attempts.

The leading argument for Measure 110 was that decriminalization of illicit drugs would be paired with an effective, accessible healthcare response. That, intentionally or not, was a lie. Now, Oregon ranks second in substance abuse and fiftieth in access to treatment. Evidence continues to mount proving Measure 110 has been a public safety and public health catastrophe, yet some still argue that this experiment just needs more time to work. But it's our constituents who are living with the results of this disastrous policy.

In 2020, Measure 110 was adopted with 58% of the vote. Today, 56% of voters support a total repeal and 64% support a partial repeal. The message from Oregonians is clear: Time is up.

According to proponents of Measure 110, it was meant to help the unsheltered homeless, but thanks to an out-of-touch approach it has done the opposite. After enabling the trafficking and use of deadly drugs, the state failed to provide the accessible healthcare that was promised. If we want to get serious about drug abuse in the unsheltered homeless community, we need to increase restrictions for drug access and ensure their healthcare is provided directly where they live, instead of forcing them to wait for appointments at clinics miles away.

To do this, we need to partner meaningfully with qualified street medicine teams. Street medicine teams establish relationships with their patients and are able to provide dual-diagnosis care right where the patient lives, ensuring direct care. Our homeless community is, understandably, distrustful of conventional healthcare providers, and street medicine serving as their primary source of care is a common sense step towards progress.

Addressing this issue requires action and collaboration. In order to regain the trust of Oregonians, a bipartisan approach is needed. To that end, it's important to establish shared and differing perspectives on this issue –

1. Do you agree we should consider a ballot measure repealing Measure 110?
2. The decriminalization of drugs has created an unprecedented incentive for cartels and traffickers to flood Oregon with drugs. Do you agree we should increase penalties for traffickers who operate in Oregon?
3. Due to record numbers of drugs crossing U.S. international borders, has your government, before receiving this letter, assisted the Biden administration or border states improve border security?
4. To ensure addiction doesn't result in insurmountable criminal records, the focus should be on greater access to the legal system. In your opinion, how can Congress and the Oregon state government collaborate to increase the number of public defenders in our state?
5. To reduce limited job access Oregonians with substance abuse issues face, what actions has your government taken to bring down barriers to employment? And how do you envision a collaboration between your government and the Congress regarding this issue?
6. Since the implementation of Measure 110, how does the number of drug-related calls law enforcement respond to compare to before Measure 110?
7. Since the implementation of Measure 110, has the growth of the homeless population surpassed the average growth before Measure 110?
8. Do you share the view that qualified street medicine providers are the best option for administering direct and accessible care to our unsheltered homeless community?

I have faith we can work together on addressing the real concerns Oregonians have regarding the failure of this reckless experiment. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to act together to improve public safety and public health.

Sincerely,



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress